

In the Abstract, please amend as follows:

A variable-length-code decoding device is ~~operable to decode~~ decodes bit streams encoded in conformity with a plurality of coding systems. The device ~~comprises~~ includes a decoding unit (100) ~~operable to decode~~ decoding variable length codes encoded by the plurality of coding systems, ~~the~~ a stream input unit (10) ~~operable to input~~ inputting the variable length codes, and an interface (30) ~~operable to interface~~ interfacing the decoding unit with the stream input unit. The stream input unit and the interface are shared in the plurality of coding systems. The necessity of providing stream input units for every coding systems is removed, thereby ~~increase an~~ increase in circuit area can be suppressed. Since the interface connects the stream input unit and the decoding units, application of this invention to other coding systems or to other combinations of coding systems is easily realized.